



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

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MAN CHARGED IN EL PASO FOR AIDING TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Mark Robert Walker, a student in Laramie, Wyoming and a resident of Rochester, New York, was arrested this week-end by officers with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at the El Paso Port of Entry. He was charged with providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization in violation of federal law.

The complaint alleges that Walker indicated to a federal law enforcement agent that he planned to travel to Somalia to fight for a Somali Islamic government and was planning to purchase and transport night vision goggles and bullet proof vests to Somalia for fighters that support the terrorist group Ittihad Al Islamiya. The State Department has designated Ittihad Al Islamiya as a terrorist organization as of April 2003.

This case is being investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the El Paso Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint Terrorism Task Force and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald.

A complaint is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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